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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/920,827	08/03/2001	Jai Chul Kim	HI-0038	7512

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EXAMINER

KNOWLIN, THJUAN P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2642

DATE MAILED: 09/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/920,827

Applicant(s)

KIM, JAI CHUL

Examiner

Thjuan P Knowlin

Art Unit

2642

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1, 3-4, 6-9, 11-14, and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Slipy et al (US 5,848,152).
2. In regards to claims 1, 8, 11, 12, 16, and 17, Slipy discloses a mobile telephone (radiotelephone handset 100) and interchangeable button cover comprising: a telephone body comprising a button portion (keypad 106); and an interchangeable button cover (faceplate 104) that can detachably couple with the body (Fig. 1 and col. 5-6 lines 66-15).
3. In regards to claims 3, 7, and 13, Slipy discloses the mobile telephone and interchangeable button cover, wherein the interchangeable button cover comprises a bar unit (faceplate 104) comprising a frame detachably mounted on the telephone body so as to enclose the button portion and keypads provided on one side of the frame and interlocked with key buttons of the button portion (Fig. 1, col. 5 lines 40-54, col. 5-6 lines 66-15, and col. 9-10 lines 65-15).
4. In regards to claims 4, 6, 9, and 14, Slipy discloses the mobile telephone and interchangeable button cover, wherein the interchangeable button cover comprises a

flip unit (faceplate 404) comprising a frame detachably mounted to the telephone body and a flip cover hingedly connected to the frame for exposing the button portion by means of a pivoting operation (Fig. 8-11, col. 9 lines 1-12, and col. 9-10 lines 65-15).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.


5. Claims 2, 5, 10, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slipy et al (US 5,848,152).
6. Slipy discloses all of claims 2, 5, 10, and 15 limitations, except the mobile telephone, wherein the interchangeable button cover comprises a structure for exposing the button portion, which can be selectively changed between a sliding lid type cover. Slipy, however, does disclose the mobile telephone, wherein the interchangeable button cover comprises a structure for exposing the button portion, which can be selectively changed between a bar type cover (faceplate 104) and a flip type cover (faceplate 404) (col. 9-10 lines 65-15). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include a sliding lid type cover as one of the interchangeable button covers, as a way of allowing the user to alter the appearance of the mobile telephone (radiotelephone handset) with minimum expense and effort.

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Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Petrella et al (US 5,745,566) teach a portable communications device having removable escutcheon elements. Mischenko (US 5,982,881) teach a radiotelephone handset having a faceplate to accommodate a plurality of distinctive telephone appearances.
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thjuan P Knowlin whose telephone number is (703) 308-1727. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30pm.
9. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (703)305-4731. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.
10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thjuan P. Knowlin


BING Q. BUI
PRIMARY EXAMINER